

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15

STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

NIC-01 SAJ-01 /093 W

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R 251436Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9253

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, ENRG, COMECON, BU

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN SOVIET RAW MATERIALS PRICES

REF: A) WARSAW 879; B) PRAGUE 323

1. HAD SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS FEB 24 WITH PROFESSOR POPOV (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF STATE) AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE LUKANOV, TRYING TO OBTAIN GREATER CLARITY ON PRICES BULGARIA WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR SOVIET RAW MATERIALS, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER RISES WILL TAKE EFFECT ALREADY IN 1975 AND TO WHAT EXTENT THEY WILL BE COMPENSATED BY INCREASED PRICES PAID BY SOVIETS FOR BULGARIAN PRODUCTS.

2. POPOV WAS OBSCURE ON TIMING OF INCREASES, SAYING WITH
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REGARD TO 1975 THAT AGREEMENTS REMAIN IN FORCE "AND EVERY-

THING IS PROCEEDING AS OUTLINED IN THE (CURRENT) FIVE-YEAR PLAN". PRICE RISES IN IMPORTS NEEDED FOR NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN WOULD NOT AFFECT BULGARIAN GOALS, WHICH MAY IN FACT BE RAISED. WHAT HE HAD SAID IN WASHINGTON AND SAN FRANCISCO ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF BULGARIA TO IMPORT INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT FROM THE WEST STILL HOLDS ABSOLUTELY, HE AVERRED. "IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE, IT WILL BE IN THE DIRECTION OF STILL GREATER EXPANSION".

3. LUKANOV ADMITTED THERE WILL BE PRICE RISES ALREADY IN 1975 BUT TRIED TO MINIMIZE THEIR IMPACT. ASKED WHETHER BULGARIA COULD EXPECT PREFERRED TREATMENT AS COMPARED TO OTHER EE COUNTRIES (WHICH HAS BEEN RUMORED HERE), HE STATED FLATLY THAT IT UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT BULGARIA TO PAY DIFFERENT PRICES FOR SOVIET OIL THAN THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE, TOO, FELT THERE STILL EXIST GOOD POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION WITH AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS, BUT HE WAS SOMEWHAT LESS BULLISH THAN POPOV.

4. DETAILS BY MEMCON.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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Type: TE
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